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CHAMBERS GENEALOGY

by

H. B. Mackoy





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GENEALOGY

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1. Chambers family (Rowland Cmambers, ?-  
1747-8).

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Compiled November, 1882, by R. B. Mackay.

The Chambers family came from Ireland, but, like many other people of that country, they were of Scotch origin. Gov. John Chambers, in his autobiography (written in 1851) says that they belonged to the Scotch clan Cameron and bore the name of that clan, but that refusing to join in the rebellion of 1645 they were compelled to leave their native land and seek a home elsewhere. It is presumed that they first visited France, where the name became corrupted to Chambre, (Cameron, Latin Camora, French Chambre, meaning chamber); afterwards they migrated to Ireland and assumed by easy change the name Chambers, which name they were permitted by an act of the British Parliament to keep.

There they did not long remain. In the early part of the eighteenth century many emigrated to America, settling for the most part in Pennsylvania, where numerous bands of Scotch-Irish had already located. From the frequency of the name at an early day we infer that there must have been more than one branch of the family, which took up its abode in that province.

Among the number Rowland and Elizabeth Chambers, with several children, arrived about the year 1720. Who Rowland's father was, we cannot positively say, but Dr. Edmund J. Lee, of Philadelphia, a careful genealogist and the author of "Lee of Virginia", has stated that his name was Arthur. As many of Rowland's descendants, including one son, bore the same name, we are inclined



to believe that Dr. Lee must be correct. It is like wise probable that several more of Rowland's brothers and sisters accompanied him. Two of his sisters were Elizabeth and Rebecca, the former the wife of John Forster, the latter the wife of James Galbraith (See "Penna. Genealogies", by Wm. H. Egle, vol.1, pp. 209 and 227). And Randall and John Chambers mentioned on your chart may have been his brothers.

Rowland Chambers chose for his home a place on the Eastern bank of the Susquehanna River some miles below Harrisburg near what was known, we think, as Conowago Creek, within the present limits of the county of Dauphin (formerly Lancaster). Here he had a farm of about 400 acres; and as the place was called Chambers' Ferry, he, no doubt, operated a ferry. He died in 1747-8, leaving his wife Elizabeth and the following children to survive him, as far as we know them:

I. John, who married Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ and resided in Paxtang township. In 1748, with his mother, Elizabeth, was one of his father's administrators. He died in March 1770. At his death he devised a farm on the Western side of the Susquehanna River to his wife. His children were:

1. Samuel.
2. Robert.
3. Elizabeth.
4. Isabel
5. Esther.
6. Mary, m. Stephen Forster, who was born in 1726 and



was the son of John Foster, who married Elizabeth Chambers, by his second wife, Sarah \_\_\_\_\_.

He was a native of Paxtang, and died in February, 1792, (?) in Turbut twp., Northumberland County.

(See Penna. Genealogies vol. 1, p. 211.)

II. Arthur, who married Jean Ross and died in November, 1762.  
He had five children, all sons:

1. Maxwell, b. 1748; d. July 4, 1785; m. Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1751; d. Oct. 3, 1784); resided at Mercersburg. He had four children:

(1) Arthur, b. Dec. 5, 1772; m. a Miss Stockton and died in Mercersburg, Pa., leaving three sons and two daughters. One of his sons also named Arthur, married a Miss Campbell of near Chambersburg, and had two children, a son and a daughter in 1859.

(2) Elizabeth b. April 14, 1777.

(3) Jeremiah, b. Nov. 16, 1779.

(4) Maxwell, b. Sept. 7, 1782.

The three latter are said not to have left descendants.

2. Robert, b. about 1753 m. \_\_\_\_\_ and moved to Kentucky in 1805, dying there in 1826. He had two sons:

(1) William, m. Rebecca Gile and died in New Orleans in 1820, leaving four children; James who died when about 21; Martha, living in Galesburgh, Ill., 1859, unmarried; Anna, married and living at same place in 1859; John Alexander, living in Knox Co., Ill. at same time.





(2) Arthur.

83 Rowland Ross, b. 1758; m. Poby. 7, 1793; Martha McCormick, daughter of Hugh and Catharine (Sanderson) McCormick, and a relative of the "Reaper McCormicks". They moved first to Maryland, (near Hagerstown), and from there to Kentucky in 1805, settling in Woodford Co., where Mr. C. Died in 1836; his wife in 1830. (A full account of his descendants is to be found in the "McCormicks Family Genealogy", published by Leander J. McCormick, of Chicago, in 1896.)

4. Arthur, b. 1758; d. Sept. 29, 1794; m. Ann, daughter of Col. Wm. Chambers, and had four children:

(1) Elizabeth, b. Sept. 28, 1791; d. 1795.

(2) Ann, m. July 27, 1824 Dr. L. L. Near. Had no issue.

(3) Wm. Chesnut, M. D.; m. Mary Ege of Carlisle Penna., and had nine children; Annie Jane, Arthur E.; Talbot Wilson, D. D., father of Rev. T. F. Chambers of Dover, N. J.; Elizabeth, unmarried, residing in Philadelphia in 1899; William B.; Mary, m. Judge Sharswood; George, Alfred; Louis n. (All of the above, but Elizabeth, dead in 1899.)

(4) Arthur, died at 18.

5. John, b. 1759-60; d. Janu. 1, 1786; unmarried.

III. James-- See below.

IV. Robert, residing in the North End of Paxtang in 1749. Bought land of Proprietors in 1743. Jany. 21, 1771, with the wife and Executors of his brother, John, he sold to John Kline the



4

same land that John had devised to his family by will in 1770.

(See chart.)

V. Margaret, m. David McClure. They had land next to Randall Chambers. (Notes and Queries, 1. p. 71.)

James Chambers, son of Rowland and his wife Elizabeth, (probably the third son), was born in Antrim Co., Ireland, in the year 1716. At the age of four years he was brought to America with the rest of the family by his father, and settled in Pennsylvania near Harrisburg. (See above). There he lived until the time of his death, which occurred in Derry Township March 13, 1758. In or about the year 1738 he married Sarah daughter of David Lee, "a woman of strong and cultivated mind and imperious temper," and she bore him the seven children whose names are given. Of these only the first six were named in their father's will, which was dated January, 1758; probated March 16, 1758. Sarah must, therefore, have died in early childhood. Besides children there were mentioned in his will his wife, Sarah, and Arthur Chambers, (his brother) and Robert Boyd, the executors. Rev'd. John Rean and Robert Huston were the witnesses.

1. Anne Chambers; born 1740, died young; unmarried.
2. Elizabeth; born 1742; married a Mr. Irvin and had at least one child, a son, who became a clerk in the Quarter-Master's Department at Washington.
3. Rowland; b. 1744; (See below.)
4. James; b. 1746; moved to the Western part of Pennsylvania as a young man and married. He had three children, two sons and a daughter. In 1840 one son, the only surviving member of the family in Chillicothe, Ohio.



5. Joseph, born 1748; removed to Ohio and lived in Jefferson County, some miles from Steubenville. Raised a large family and lived to an advanced age.
6. Benjamin, born 1751; accompanied his brother Rowland to New Jersey as a young man; at the commencement of the Revolution he procured a commission as Captain in the regular army and retired with the rank of Major; settled in Maryland at the close of the war and married his cousin, a daughter of Mr. Ezekiel Forman, (whose father Joseph married Bettie Lee, sister of Sarah Lee); was for many years Clerk of the Superior Court of Cecil Co., Md., and known as General Ben Chambers; he was the father of General Ezekiel Forman Chambers, Judge of the Supreme Court of Maryland and U. S. Senator from that state. (Also had several other children, sons and daughters. Two of the former settled in Mississippi as cotton planters, and one was living there in 1851.)
7. Sarah, born 1753; died before her father's will was written, which was in January, 1758.



Rowland Chambers, the eldest son of James and Sarah Chambers, was born near Harrisburg in Pennsylvania, (probably Perry Township), in 1744. In early manhood he was sent to New York, where he was employed as a Clerk in the mercantile establishment of his uncle Joseph Forman, Mr. Forman having married his mother's sister Betty Lee. Here he remained for several years continuing in business after his uncle's death, and making many voyages to European ports. It was on his return from one of these trips that he met and married Phoebe Mullican, an orphan girl residing on Long Island; <sup>(1)</sup> this was about the year 1768. Not long afterwards Mr. Chambers removed to Bromley Bridge, Somerset County, New Jersey, and in conjunction with a Mr. John Martin, conducted a large retail store and flour mill at that place until the breaking out of the Revolutionary War. He then took the command of a regiment of New Jersey militia, but from exposure he became a cripple, so that he was unable to mount his horse and soon retired from the colonelcy. Later, however, he served as a private in the ranks on more than one occasion and lavished his means in support of the cause. The war at an end, Mr. Chambers found himself in greatly reduced circumstances and was compelled to seek his fortunes anew in the Western wilderness. In the summer of 1794, therefore, he made the journey to Kentucky, with his entire family except his son James, who remained in New Jersey a few years longer, and settled first at Washington, Mason Co.; but in 1798 he moved again to Augusta in Bracken Co., and there passed the remainder of his life on a farm. He died in October, 1821, at the age of 77 years; Mrs. Chambers died in 1826. The following were their children:





1. William born 1770.
2. Phoebe, born 1772; married Mr. Robert Davis and resided in Augusta, Ky.
3. Benjamin, born 1774; married a young lady of Jefferson Co, Ky. when he was about 24 years of age; who lived but a short time and left no offspring. Being a roving dis-

7. (1) Phoebe Mullican Chambers was born 1739; died 1826.

position he wandered several years and then married again. By his second wife he had three sons, whose names are unknown, except the youngest, James, the only one to leave issue. His children were living in Illinois in December, 1851, but he himself was dead.

4. Sarah, born 1776; married Joseph Logan in 1794 shortly after her arrival in Kentucky and moved to Jefferson County that state.
5. James, born Sept. 12, 1778; died Nov. 9, 1825; m. Feby. 22, 1798, Ann Armstrong, (b. Feby. 22, 1775; d. March 29, 1845) daughter of John and Margaret (Linn) Armstrong. They had issue:
  - (1) Mary, b. Dec. 15, 1798; d. in Louisville, Ky., Apr. 14 1885; m. May 2, 1813, Wm. B. Phillips.
  - (2) Margaret, b. Aug. 1/ 1801; d. at Society Hill, S. Carolina Feby. 13, 1888; m. March 25, 1819, Rev. Platt Stout and left numerous descendants.
  - (3) Phoebe, b. Dec. 24, 1803; d. Oct. 27, 1805.
  - (4) John Armstrong, b. Jan'y 18, 1807; d. at Mobile, Ala., Sept. 22, 1861; m. 1836 Elizabeth Jane Simpson and had six children, Walter, Hubert, Charles, George, Ann and Frank Ross, the last named now residing at "Crow's Nest",



14

Bronxville, Westchester Co. N. Y.

(5) Ann, b. Aug. 19, 1808; d. Nov. 7, 1893; m. 1st. Jan. 25, 1829, John Coburn, by whom she had no children to survive; 2nd Dec. 26, 1833, John Shackelford, by whom she left numerous descendants now residing in Lexington and elsewhere.

(6) James, b. July 26, 1812; d. Nov. 19, 1813.

(7) William b. March 4, 1815; d. Oct. 4, 1882; he was never married.

6. John, born Oct. 6, 1780; died Sept. 21, 1852. (see below).

7. Polly, born 1782; died in the sum of 1795.

John Chambers, son of Rowland and Phoebe, was born on the 6th day of October in the year of seventeen hundred and eighty, at Bromley Bridge, in the county of Somerset, State of New Jersey, and in the summer of the year 1794, left that county, together with his father and mother and their entire family for Kentucky (detained some time in the Monongohela county, waiting the arrival of his father, who had taken the city of New York, in his way), and arrived at Limestone (Maysville) after a very tedious and laborious passage down the Ohio River late in the month of October, 1794, and settled immediately in Washington, in the County of Mason. In the winter and spring of 1794-5 assisted occasionally in a retail store belonging to a Mr. Wiggins, and a very short time in one belonging to one Lewis Moore. In the spring of 1795 was sent to Transylvania Seminary at Lexington; remained at school there until June or July when some difficul-



ties between the President of the institution (Harry Toulman) and the trustees, lessened the reputation of the institution, which, combined with pecuniary difficulties, precluded all hope of regular education, and a clerkship in the retail store of Messrs. Brownson & Irvin was resorted to for employment and subsistence. In December 1797 entered the office of Francis Taylor, Esq., Clerk of the Washington District Court, and a practising attorney, with an agreement that the time not occupied in the duties of the clerk's office might be employed in reading law. Continued to reside in his family until the spring of 1800, when he (Taylor) removed to his farm on the Ohio, and very liberally gave up the emoluments of the office (to the deputy) as a compensation for attending to its duties (and it afforded a decent competence). In November 1800 obtained a license and immediately commenced the practice of the law in the inferior court. (See page 12). (This refers to page 12 in original record book).

1803, June 16, married Margaret, Taylor, daughter of Maj. Ignatius Taylor (then) of the county of Washington, state of Maryland.

1804- 12th May- a still born female child.

1807- 22nd Feb- another still born daughter.

1807- 4th March- Margaret, the wife of John Chambers departed this life, having when nearly completed her 26th year. She was born 22nd May, 1781.

1807- Oct. 29, married (near Hagerstown in Maryland) Hannah L. Taylor, daughter of the above named Maj. Taylor, and sister of the half blood to the deceased wife. Hannah Taylor the second wife of John Chambers was born on the 9th Jan. 1791. See further as to



Taylor's family, "Lee of Virginia", by Dr. Edmund J.  
Lee, Philadelphia, 1895.

Of this last mentioned marriage came the following children:

Margaret Taylor Chambers- born 2nd. December 1808 at 11 o'clock  
and 3 minutes P. M. who on the 12th Sept. 1826 married to Hugh  
Innes Brent of Paris in the county of Bourbon. H. I. Brent  
died 2nd. Sept. 1845.

Joseph Sprigg Chambers- born 30th Oct. 1810, one o'clock P. M.  
married Martha Ann Phillips.

Hannah L. Chambers- born 16th July 1812 one o'clock A. M. Mar-  
ried to Dr. John William Henry Sept. 1831. Died 8th July 1847,  
fifteen minutes after seven o'clock A. M.

James Chambers- born 4th March 1814 half past seven o'clock P.  
M., a healthy and beautiful child. He died on the 29th of  
April 1814 11 o'clock P. M., having suffered much for several  
days.

Matilda Chambers- born 17th March 1815 9 o'clock A. M. Married  
to Charles Scott Brent 10th Feby. 1835 (C. S. B. is brother of  
Hugh I. Brent and resides also in Bourbon Co., Kentucky.\*)

\*This note was made by Gov. Chambers at that time. Mr. C. S. Brent  
died February 16, 1881.





Francis Taylor Chambers- born 29th July 1817. Married Frances Marshall July 1838. On the 31st day of January 1840 she gave birth to a male child (named John Marshall) and died on the 12th day of Feby. 1840. He afterwards married Eliza Durret, who left one child- a daughter named Elizabeth. In 1848 he married Elizabeth Febiger.

Jane Chambers- born 18th August 1819 half past three P. M. Married to John samuel Forman 8th of March 1838. Died on the 18th day of August 1853 at 11 o'clock and 20 minutes A. M. in Washington, Ky. Buried in Forman Cemetery.

Mary Chambers- born 18th August 1821 about six o'clock P. M. Died 2nd September 1849, 12 o'clock Meridian. Buried in the same grave with her sister Laura.

Laura Chambers- born 19th Sept. 1823 at thirty minutes after 11 o'clock A. M. Married to Dr. John A. Lyle of Paris, Ky. 1848. Died 2nd Sept. 1849 Buried at Paris in the same grave with her sister Mary.

John James Chambers- Born 20th November 1825 at thirty minutes after 6 o'clock P. M. Died at Paris, Ky. at half past 12 o'clock Meridian, 30th Sept. 1844. Buried at Washington. Thus ended one of the most amiable, noble boys of his race.



Henry Chambers- Born 24th Jany. 1828 at thirty minutes after 4 o'clock A. M. Died at Louisville, Ky. at fifteen minutes past nine A. M. April 4, 1894.

Lucretia Chambers- Born 14th March 1830 at 5 o'clock P. M. Died 5th March 1836.

Hannah, the second wife of John Chambers died on the 11th of November 1832 at 5 o'clock in the morning.

John Chambers, by whose hand all the foregoing memoranda (save that of Jane Chambers' death and that of Henry Chambers) were written, died on the 21st. day of September 1852 at fifteen minutes after three o'clock P. M. at the residence of his son-in-law, Charles S. Brent in Paris, Ky. He was buried in the old grave in Washington, Ky. He was at his death near the completion of the 72nd year of his age. (H. C.)

#### Record.

In 1812 was elected to the House of Representatives of Kentucky  
1813- Served as a volunteer aid-de-camp to Gen. Harrison and was in the battle of the Thames in upper Canada. . See Gen. Harrison's letter to Secy. of War and his letter of thanks to J. C.  
1815- Again elected to the House of Representatives of Kentucky. Served year in the office of District Attorney for the Commonwealth.  
1822- Elected to the House of Representatives to the United States for one session to fill a vacancy. Declined a re-election.



1830-32- served as a member of the House of Representatives of Kentucky.

1835- Appointed a Judge of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky. Resigned without taking a seat in the court and was elected a member of the 24th. Congress. (See note below.)

1837- Re-elected to Congress and served to the close of the 25th Congress (3rd March 1839). Declined re-election.

4th of March 1841 and from then to 4th April same year, acted as the private secretary (without appointment and not so called) of President Wm. Henry Harrison, having in the meantime, to wit on the 25th March 1841 been appointed by the President, Governor of the Territory of Iowa, upon the duties of which office he entered upon the 13th May of the same year.

Appointed a commissioner in conjunction with T. H. Crawford, Commissioner of Indian Affairs and Q.(?) D. Doty, Governor of Wisconsin, to treat with the Sac and Fox Indians, In Oct. 1841. Negotiations failed.

Sept. 1842. Appointed sole commissioner for the above purpose. Succeeded fully on 11th of Oct. 1842.

July 1843. Appointed commissioner to treat with the Winnebago Indians. Negotiations failed.

1844. Reappointed Governor of Iowa by President Tyler.

Oct. 20, 1845. Removed from office by President Polk to make room for a political partisan.

Let it be understood that this removal from office was made without the imputation of improper conduct or of neglect of duty, or other cause assigned.



Aug. 1849. Appointed commissioner jointly with Gov. Ramsey to treat with the Sioux Indians in Minnesota. Succeeded only in part,

For biography of John Chambers (as well as other members of family), see Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography, pp. 566-7.

John Chambers was appointed to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky as the successor of Hon. Samuel S. Nichols, who resigned during the vacation after the Fall Term<sup>rm</sup>. 1834; when he declined the office, Thomas A. Marshall was appointed in his place - Marshall's commission was dated March 18, 1835. Note to 3rd. Dana (Ky. Reports), beginning of volume.

1966348

For genealogical accounts of various branches of Chambers' family, see:-

"Notes & Queries". Published by Harrisburg(?) Penna. (Cinti. Pub. Library.)

"Pennsylvania Genealogies". (Cinti. Pub. Library.)

" Archives. " " "

"Lee of Virginia", by Edmund J. Lee, Philadelphia, 1895.





## Brief Record of Career of John Chambers.

John Chambers, son of Roland and Phoebe Chambers, born October 6, 1780, at Bromley Bridge, Somerset County, New Jersey, moved to Kentucky in the year 1794 with his father and mother, and settled in Washington, the county seat of Mason County. In the year 1796 he attended Transylvania University, at Lexington, Ky., for a few months. From December 1797 to November 1800, he was a deputy clerk of the District Court, held at Washington, Mason County.

The bar of the District Court, at Washington, at that time, was composed of very capable lawyers.

In November 1800, he obtained a license to practice law and immediately began its practice.

In 1812, he was a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives.

In 1813, he served as a volunteer aid-de-camp to Gen. Harrison and was in the Battle of the Thames.

In 1815, he was again a member of the House of Representatives of Kentucky, and, afterwards served one year in the office of District Attorney of the Commonwealth.

In 1828, he was elected to the House of Representatives of the U. S., to fill a vacancy, and served one session.

In 1831 and 1832 he was a member of the House of Representatives of Kentucky.

In the winter of 1854-55, he was appointed by the Governor of Kentucky a Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. His appointment was confirmed but he resigned without taking his seat as a member of the Court.



From March 4, 1835 to March 4, 1839 he was again a member of the U. S. House of Representatives.

From March 4, 1841, to April 4, 1841, he acted as private secretary of President Harrison, without however an appointment to that office and not being so called.

March 25, 1841, he was appointed by President Harrison, Governor of the Territory of Iowa, upon the duties of which office he entered May 15, 1841.

While Governor of Iowa, he served upon a Commission to treat with the Sac and Fox Indians, in October, 1841, his associates being T. H. Crawford, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and Governor Doty of Wisconsin.

The Commission was unsuccessful, and, in September 1842, Chambers was appointed sole Commissioner for the above purpose and succeeded fully October 11, 1842.

July 1843, he was appointed Commissioner to treat with the Winnebago Indians, but the negotiation failed.

In 1844 he was reappointed Governor of Iowa by President Tyler.

October 20, 1845, he was relieved of his office as Governor of Iowa by President Polk, who appointed a Democrat as his successor, Governor Chambers being a member of the Whig party.

In August, 1849, he was appointed a Commissioner, jointly with Governor Ramsey, to treat with the Sioux Indians in Minnesota. Afterwards, he returned to Kentucky, and died September 21, 1852, at the residence of his son-in-law, Chas. S. Brent, in Paris, Ky.

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